



THE ARKANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD LETTER

March/April 2005



Arkansas Department
of Human Services

CELEBRATE ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S WEEK JOJO'S CIRCUS

Playhouse Disney has made available 1,000 JoJo's Circus Twist and Turn Time Activity Kits. The kits have been specially created to provide you with new ways to help children actively learn. The kit can be used with whole groups of preschoolers or with individual children.



The Kit includes:

- A set of Activity Cards for kids to recognize and imitate the movements of JoJo and her friends
- A jumping Chart and Star Stickers for kids to keep track of how high they can jump
- A special Teacher's Edition video of JoJo's Circus

Each activity uses thinking and movement skills that lead to physical and mental growth, and just plain fun! If you are interested in receiving an activity kit, be one of the first 1,000 to contact our office:

Call: 1-800-445-3316 or 501-682-9699

E-mail: Jennifer.Spriggs@arkansas.gov

Write: Division of Child Care and Early Childhood
Education, Box 1437, Slot S160, Little Rock, AR
72203.



AR Children's Week April 3 - 9, 2005

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2005 ANNUAL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM TRAINING

National School Lunch Program Participants, the Annual Training for 2005 will be held July 13 - 14, 2005 for Private Schools and RCCI's (residential child care institutions) operating Day Schools. Training for RCCI's will be July 27 - 28, 2005. You will receive additional information in the near future. This is a mandatory training for Principals, Administrators, Food Service Directors and anyone else having direct contact with the school lunch program. Make plans to attend now!

Curtis Curry, Administrator, Vickie Stewart and Tina Walton, Grant Coordinators, in the Office of Special Nutrition Programs would like to thank you for all that you do in preparing great school breakfast and school lunch meals and being a participant in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast and Special Milk Program.

A T T E N T I O N NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Those currently not participating in the commodity program, the deadline for Private Schools and Residential Child Care Institutions to obtain an agreement with the commodity section through the National School Lunch Program is May 2, 2005.

Contact Vickie Stewart or Tina Walton by phone at 1-800-482-5850 Ext. 682-8869 or you may email at vickie.stewart@arkansas.gov or tina.walton@arkansas.gov



JANUARY 2005 RECALLS

Kids Station Inc., of Miami , Fla. , for Toys "R" Us, of Wayne , N.J. is voluntarily recalling about 10,500 Fun Years Music Big Drum musical sets. Small parts can break off during use, posing a choking hazard to young children.

Riviera Trading Inc., of New York , N.Y. is voluntarily recalling about 7,100 metallic costume bracelets. The bracelets contain high levels of lead and pose a lead poisoning hazard to children.

Orbelle Trade Inc., of Brooklyn , N.Y. is voluntarily recalling about 7,700 cribs. The Amber model crib included in this recall does not comply with crib safety standards due to a gap between the side rail and the crib mattress support, posing an entrapment hazard to infants. All other model cribs included in this recall do not have proper assembly instructions and diagrams required for cribs. They are also missing cautionary and warning labels as required by federal law. If the cribs are not assembled properly they could pose an entrapment hazard to infants.

The Step 2 Co., of Streetsboro , Ohio is voluntarily recalling about 9,300 toddler swings. The straps on these swings could break, causing a child riding in the swing to fall to the ground and suffer injuries. For more information contact the Office of the Attorney General at 501-682-2341 or 1-800-482-8982.



**THE ARKANSAS
EARLY CHILDHOOD LETTER**



**The Arkansas Early Childhood
Commission
Mike Huckabee, Governor
Tonya Russell, Director
Lee Vent, Chairman**

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Bruce Cohen
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Jody Veit-Edrington
Dr. Doretha Davis
Barbara Gilkey
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www.arkansas.gov/childcare

The Arkansas Early Childhood Letter is
an information service of the
Division of Child Care and Early
Childhood Education,
Department of Human Services.



**REGIONAL TRAINING DATES
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH
PROGRAM AGREEMENTS**

Thursday, April 7, 2005
2:30PM-4:30PM

Craighead Co DHS
RM 1115, Jonesboro

Thursday, April 14, 2005
2:30PM-4:30PM

Clark Co DHS
Conf RM 2, Arkadelphia

Thursday, April 21, 2005
2:30PM - 4:30PM

Pope Co DHS
Large Conference RM
Russellville

Thursday April 26, 2005
4:00PM-6:00PM

Little Rock, Donaghey
Plaza South
SNP Conference RM

Thursday, April 28, 2005
2:30PM-4:30PM

Sebastian Co DHS
Conf RM 303, Fort Smith

These trainings are to assist you in correctly completing the National School Lunch Program Agreements. The Agreement will be mailed to your school/facility by Thursday, March 31, 2005 and due back to the Office of SNP by Friday May 6, 2005. ***BRING YOUR NSLP AGREEMENT. You may call Vickie Stewart or Tina Walton at 1-800-482-5850 extension 682-8869.

HELP FAMILIES GET TAX CREDITS

The National Women's Law Center, working with child care advocates across the country, is launching the 2005 national tax credits outreach campaign. The campaign is designed to help child care providers and parents who use child care learn about important tax credits and to help eligible families claim these tax credits. No matter what state you live in, tax credits outreach can help to inform low-and moderate-income families about valuable federal, and in some cases state, tax credits that can help put thousands of dollars in their pockets. Visit the website at www.nwlc.org for tools and materials you can use to help families in your community take advantage of these valuable tax credits. For more information, visit the website or contact Kimberly Glassman at (202)588-5180 or kglassman@nwlc.org.

Welcome the Children Project Language and Assessment Survey for Child Care Providers and Early Childhood Educators

The Welcome the Children project is seeking information on child care and preschool services in Arkansas being provided to children who speak Spanish, as well as other languages. Current practices of observing and assessing children for possible speech and language delays are also being reviewed. This survey information will be used to determine current assessment practices and to develop new training for child care providers and early childhood educators.

COMPLETE THIS SURVEY AND BE ELIGIBLE FOR A PRIZE!

(One survey per program please)

Welcome the Children is funded by the Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education and is administrated by UAMS Partners for Inclusive Communities. We appreciate your help in obtaining this vital information. Please feel free to share this survey form with other providers.

Contact Information We ask that you provide your contact information in case we have any questions, but your survey information will only be shared in a combined (aggregate) format. Your contact information will not be shared with anyone else without your permission.

Name _____ Title _____

Name of Child Care Program _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number _____ E-Mail Address _____

☐ Please add my name to an e-mail distribution list to receive information on upcoming training opportunities and resources related to serving children who speak Spanish.

Children Served and Languages Spoken

1. How many children from birth to age three do you currently serve? _____
How many of them speak (or are from families who speak): English only _____
Spanish only _____ Spanish/Limited English _____ Spanish/English (easy to understand in both languages) _____
2. How many children age three to age five do you currently serve? _____
How many of them speak: English only _____ Spanish only _____
Spanish/Limited English _____ Spanish/English (easy to understand in both languages) _____
3. How many children over age five do you currently serve? _____
How many of them speak: English only _____ Spanish only _____
Spanish/Limited English _____ Spanish/English (easy to understand in both languages) _____

Staff Members

4. How many staff members do you have at your site? (If your program has multiple sites, each site should complete a separate survey form.)

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2 – 5
- ☐ 6 – 10
- ☐ 10 – 15
- ☐ 16 or more

5. How many of the staff members speak Spanish? Basic knowledge ____ Fluent ____

6. How many staff members have received previous training related to English as a Second Language (ESL), Latin American culture, Spanish language, or working with Hispanic children? _____

7. Please describe the amount and type of training received:

8. What languages are spoken by the **children** at your program? (Check all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Marshallese | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Romanian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> German | <input type="checkbox"/> Laotian | <input type="checkbox"/> Gujarati |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese | <input type="checkbox"/> Hmong | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

9. What languages are spoken by the **staff** at your program? (Check all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Marshallese | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Romanian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> German | <input type="checkbox"/> Laotian | <input type="checkbox"/> Gujarati |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese | <input type="checkbox"/> Hmong | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

10. How does your child care program assess children for possible delays in their speech and language development? (Please check all that apply.)

- ☐ We hire outside professionals to assess the children. (Please explain.) _____
- ☐ Staff from the program assess the children.
- ☐ We document the children's work and staff observations of the children's progress but do not conduct formal assessments.
- ☐ We do not provide any formal observations or assessments of children.
- ☐ Other _____

11. How often are informal observations of children's activities and progress documented?
- ☐ At least daily
 - ☐ At least weekly
 - ☐ At least monthly
 - ☐ At least every six months
 - ☐ At least yearly
 - ☐ Upon entering and leaving child care
 - ☐ We do not have a standard process for documenting observations.
12. How often are formal assessments of children conducted?
- ☐ At least weekly
 - ☐ At least monthly
 - ☐ At least every six months
 - ☐ At least yearly
 - ☐ Upon entering and leaving child care
 - ☐ We do not have a standard process for conducting formal assessments.
13. How are your procedures modified for children who speak Spanish?
- ☐ Assessments are conducted by bilingual assessors.
 - ☐ Assessments are conducted using interpreters.
 - ☐ Staff observations are compared with those from a parent or family member to determine how the child speaks in her home language.
 - ☐ No adaptations are made.
 - ☐ Other _____
14. What type instruments or procedures are used to conduct assessments at your program (please check all that apply)?
- ☐ Bilingual Vocabulary Assessment Measure
 - ☐ Bracken Basic Concept Scale
 - ☐ Brigance
 - ☐ Developmental Rating Scale
 - ☐ Expressive One-Word Picture Vocabulary Test
 - ☐ Idea Proficiency Test
 - ☐ Language Proficiency Measure
 - ☐ Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test
 - ☐ Pre-Language Assessment Scale (Pre-LAS)
 - ☐ Preschool Language Scale-4 (Spanish Edition)
 - ☐ SOLOM (Student Oral Language Observation Matrix)
 - ☐ SOL (Student Oral Language)
 - ☐ Spanish Articulation Measures
 - ☐ Woodcock-Munoz Language Scale
 - ☐ Other _____
 - ☐ Other _____
 - ☐ Informal observation of children and notations placed in their files.

15. When you suspect that a child at your program has a developmental delay, where do you refer him/her?

Do they provide bilingual services? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Explain:

16. What type of additional training do you need to better serve Spanish speaking children?

- ☐ Cultural and language differences
- ☐ Observation and assessment methods
- ☐ Classroom adaptations for children who speak Spanish
- ☐ Other _____

17. Please provide any additional comments or questions:

Signature

Date

Electronic submission will constitute signature. To submit electronically, go to <http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/surveys/> If printing form, please return to the address below. For questions regarding this survey, please contact Brenda Reynolds, 501-922-1880; 1-800-342-2923 (Message number); E-mail: reynoldsbrendak@uams.edu

Please return this completed form to: UAMS Partners for Inclusive Communities, Welcome the Children Project, 2001 Pershing Circle, Suite 300 North Little Rock, AR 72114.

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MARK THESE DATES

April 30 - May 7, 2005
National SAFE KIDS
Week

WEE WORKSHOP
August 1, Fort Smith
August 4 - 5,
Little Rock

May 6, 2005
National Provider
Appreciation Day

ASU Conferences

Early Childhood Conference
August 1-3, 2005

Family Child Care Conference
April 22-23, 2005